Content Standards Informer

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Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

An updated presentation giving background, description of the English/Language Arts and Mathematics document, assessment, professional development and Frequently Asked Questions is available at http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p95032791.

Thank you to those who have completed the CCSS survey. Please encourage others to take a moment to send feedback via the survey on the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Web site http://keysurvey.mt.gov/survey/107148/1910/.

Interested in examining the CCSS documents more closely? A guide, Treasure Hunt through English/Language Arts and Mathematics Common Core State Standards, is available for you to examine each document at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html?gpm=1_7 .

More details about the Common Core State Standards can be found on the OPI Web site http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html#gpm1_7 and the Core Standards Web site http://www.corestandards.org/.

OPI Assessment Conference: *On the Horizon*

January 20-21, 2011, Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Billings, Montana. Paul Andersen, 2011 Montana Teacher of the Year, will open the conference with a keynote address on Thursday, January 20: *Motivating Students in the 21st Century*. Early registration fee is $65. Starting January 7, the registration fee is $75. Please go online to register.
https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/opi_horizon/registration

Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference

Save the date for the annual OPI Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference to be held February 7-8, 2011, at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel, in Helena.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

Online Math Magazine	**Plus** magazinehttp://plus.maths.org/content/ opens a door to the world of math, with all its beauty and applications, by providing articles from the top mathematicians and science writers on topics as diverse as art, medicine, cosmology and sport. You can read the latest mathematical news on the site every week, browse our blog, listen to our podcasts and subscribe to our fortnightly e-mail newsletter.
Einstein Fellowship - Application is Now Open!	The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC, serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2011-2012 school year, apply online **now**, and submit your application and three letters of recommendation no later than January 4, 2011. To learn more about the program and apply, visit http://www.trianglecoalition.org/fellows/einapp.htm If you have questions about the program or application, contact Program Manager Kathryn Culbertson at culbertsonk@triangle-coalition.org.
Thank You!	Thank you for all those who attended the MEA/MFT educator conference in Helena. I loved the group of dedicated teachers in each of my sessions. If you need additional materials or resources, please don't hesitate to contact me. **OPI Contact**: Jean Howard, (406) 444-0706, or jhoward@mt.gov The Content Standards Informer (CSI) will be distributed the first Friday of each month through the Content Standards Informer Listserv. If you would like to receive the CSI each month please sign up for the listserv at: http://lists.opi.mt.gov/mailman/listinfo/contentstandardsinformer.

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Handy hand-out: Early literacy milestones on one page	*Published on Monday, October 25, 2010 on http://walearning.com.* Research tells us that academic success requires reading proficiency by the end of third grade. And the process of learning to be a good reader by third grade starts in infancy. What are the important milestones between six months and 8 to 9 years old? What can we do to help young children build the foundation for reading proficiency by third grade? *A developing reader's journey to third grade* shows the typical chronology of early literacy milestones and what adults can do to support the process. And it's only one page! This is a useful handout or slide for staff development and parent education. This handy handout was included in a recent report from Massachusetts, *Turning the page: Refocusing Massachusetts for reading success* (2010). The report is an excellent early literacy resource with policy recommendations as well as research-based strategies for improving language and literacy development in the early years.
Cool Web Site:	SPLAT SQUARE is an interactive math resource for the primary classroom. Check out this website for an interactive approach to Numeracy in the area of 100's Square activities. http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/SplatSquares/splatsq100.html
Best Books in Science - Finalists Announced for 2011 AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize	**OPI Contact**: Terri Barclay, (406) 444-0753, or tbarclay2@mt.gov The finalists for the 2011 AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books have been announced. This prize "celebrates outstanding science writing and illustration for children and young adults." http://www.sbfonline.com/Subaru/Pages/Finalists2011.aspx

Communication Arts Essential Learning Expectations	The Communication Arts Essential Learning Expectations are now available online: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/CommArts/index.html
Engaging Students: Interesting Inferences	Great information from IRA Inspire – November 2010 You're going to start a lesson about making inferences. But it's Monday morning, and your perkiest "Hey kids! Let's learn about inferences!" just doesn't seem to be grabbing them. So try this instead: "Hey, how about we start off the week with some RSS feeds, Web pages, and video links—and see how the Internet can help with this week's reading assignments?" Think maybe you've got their attention now?! You can use RSS—Really Simple Syndication, a popular Web tool—to work on inferential thinking, critical thinking, and new literacy skills. "Using the Internet to Facilitate Improved Reading Comprehension" by Kellie C. Ellis "Toward a Theory of New Literacies Emerging From the Internet," by Don Leu, et al. "Inferring How and Why Characters Change" "Developing Inferential Comprehension Through DL-TA and Discussion Webs"
Online Resource	One Word is an online writing prompt generator. User clicks "go" on the One Word homepage and they are presented with one word. Users then have 60 seconds to write in the text box whatever comes to their minds regarding that word. **OPI Contact**: Kris Goyins, (406) 444-0729, or kgoyins@mt.gov

Meeting the Needs of a Precocious Reader	In an interview now archived online at http://ncldtalks.org/content/interview/detail/4134, Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D., a national expert on RtI and GT students, responds to the question: "How, during an RtI grade level block, do I address students in grade one who have met all reading benchmarks?"
	When a child has met all the expected benchmarks and has demonstrated mastery of the expected materials, it is essential that we find appropriate learning activities for him/her. Here are some ideas for a young and precocious reader:
	Allow him/her to select appropriate books at their independent reading level to read. Keeping a reading log may be useful and can be expanded to include a reader's journal reflecting on the book being read. The reader's journal (may be electronic) can include questions like:
	•Who is your favorite character in the book and why do you like this character so much? (Draw a picture of this character.)
	•What is the most interesting thing that happens in this book? Do you think that the characters handle this situation well? What would you do in the same situation?
	•Draw pictures showing the sequence of the events in the story.
	•Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or Why not?
	Often finding appropriate books for young precocious readers is a challenge as books on their reading level may contain material that deals with more advanced topics that are not age appropriate. Because of this dilemma, teachers often seek out "how to" books and non-fiction materials. These also may connect with the child's interest and so the content is both relevant and interesting.
	Ideas for differentiating reading for young children can also be found at: http://www.k8accesscenter.org/training_resources/readingdifferentiation.asp http://www.appomattox.k12.va.us/acps/attachments/6_6_12_dan_mulligan_handout.pdf
	OPI Contact: Deb Poole, (406) 444-4317, dpoole@mt.gov.

8th Grade Technology Literacy Assessment	Elementary districts that participate in the ESEA title II, Part D –Enhancing Education Through Technology program (receive funding and have not redirected/transferred the funds to other ESEA title programs) and have 8th grade students must assesses the technology literacy of their 8th grade students. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) collects and manages the data and then reports the data to the U.S. Department of Education. All participating districts receive a data report that lists their students and their scores on the assessment and proficiency on the individual standards assessed.
	To ease the implementation of this requirement and to provide data to districts participating in the assessment, the OPI has adopted the SimpleAssessment as the assessment tool. This tool from the Info Source Learning Company asks students questions about their skills and knowledge and is aligned to the International Society for Technology Education– National Education Technology Standards (ISTE NETS) for students. The ISTE NETS were used as a source document when the Montana Technology Content and Performance Standards for students were developed and thus the assessment is in alignment with the Montana standards.
	Further information on administering the assessment will be sent to district Test Coordinators and Technology Specialists in December. The technology literacy assessment window will be open for three weeks in January 2011.
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